

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-11 are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 4-7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sung et al. (US 5,594,660). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sung et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as set forth below.

Claim 1 is amended to include the feature of the reproducing period of the data in the first picture in each VOBU in a lip sync compensation process is shorter than the reproducing period of one picture in a normal process when lip sync compensation process is not executed. Support for this amendment is present, for example, on page 15, lines 12-16, of the specification.

According to amended claim 1, when the reproduction of the audio data goes ahead of the reproduction of the visual data by the period equal to or larger than the first predetermined period, the lip sync compensator shortens the reproducing period of data in the first picture in each VOBU. The shortening claimed in claim 1 defines that reproducing period of the data in the first picture in each VOBU in lip sync compensation process is shorter than reproducing period of one picture in normal process when lip sync compensation process is not executed. In other words, the lip sync compensation process in claim 1 uses all the data included in each VOBU, but never skips any data in the VOBU.

Therefore, the moving image displayed on the monitor in the lip sync compensation process becomes smooth.

In contrast, Sung et al. repeatedly uses the word “skipping” in the description in column 6, lines 44 to 64, where the audio/video sync compensation process is described. That is, the reference discloses skipping whole or half frames of data in order to resynchronize the video display with the audio playback. However, Sung et al. discloses neither “shortening” reproducing period of the data in the first picture in each VOBU in lip sync compensation process nor the definition of “shortening” such that the reproducing period of the data in the first picture in each VOBU in lip sync compensation process is shorter than reproducing period of one picture in normal process when lip sync compensation process is not executed. Thus, amended claim 1 is not anticipated by and not obvious from Sung et al.

Claims 4-9 are patentable over Sung et al. due to their dependence from claim 1.

New claims 10-11 are added to further define the claimed lip sync compensator. Support for these claims is present in the specification at page 16, line 15 – page 18, line 8, for example, in which the features of claims 10-11 are implicitly included. Claims 10-11 are patentable due to their dependence from claim 1.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 010482.52753US).

Respectfully submitted,

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